

## The HOME BEAUTIFUL

Flowers and Shrubbery  
Their Care and Cultivation.



Japanese Iris.

### MAKING MOST OF THE IRIS

By L. M. BENNINGTON.

Iris of all plants is most indifferent to its surroundings, soil and environment. With satisfactory attention it gives wonderful results.

For German Iris, plant the roots deeply; but the bulb should be covered very lightly unless planting late in the fall or very early in the spring, when they should be planted about two inches below the soil level. At other times just barely cover them.

When hoeing in the summer it is well not to draw much soil to them, as it is liable to rot them at certain times when they are more subject to this decay than others, when covered deeply with soil; and doubly so after they become larger.

All the culture they need is to have the soil kept free of weeds and hoed very lightly or raked just so the crust is broken or kept loose.

About November 1, before freezing begins give them a good hoeing and a light dressing of manure after the hoeing. Plant or divide at any time.

A few very good sorts are florentina, early white; innocencia, late white; celeste, rich sky blue; pallida delmatica, rich lavender; fairy, pearly white; wawescena, rich canary; honorabilla rich falls, yellow chocolate brown; gypsy queen, smoky bronze, falls deep chocolate; sappho, deep velvety purple; all very free.

The Japan Iris requires much different treatment, while very easily handled when their requirements are understood, yet they are somewhat fickle. The best results are obtained when the soil is very rich, well watered and kept hoed at all times.

Never allow weeds to attain any start in their beds as they cannot resist the encroachments of rapid, strong-growing weeds.

Plant them deeply so that the crowns are fully three inches below the soil level. Plant late in October, or very early in the spring.

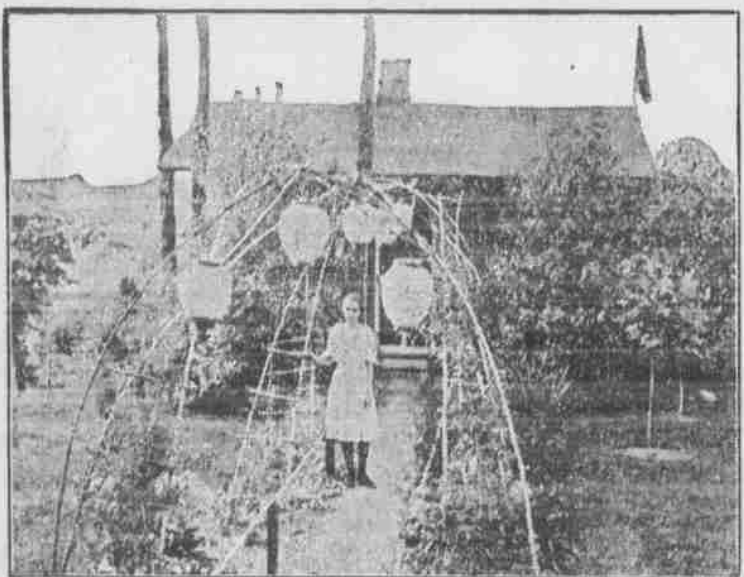
Water well after doing it. They may be planted at almost any time if the soil is allowed to adhere to the roots and kept well watered for at least two weeks. In fact they should never be allowed to become dry.

Give them deep hoeing and good mulching of manure during August or September, and hoe it into the soil thoroughly.

Iris Tectorum, Sibirica and similar types require much the same attention and treatment as Japan Iris, but they will stand any amount of dryness.

Iris Germanica, Susana, Pumila and similar types require the same treatment.

A good list of Iris Japan is blue jay, deep purple blue; Mt. Blanc, fine white; Pyramid, deep blue, golden base; Elizabeth, fine white; Oshokun, the deepest purple-blue; W. T. Butterfield, entire white edged with magenta.



Attractive Planting of Iris With Climbing Roses.

### AMONG THE FLOWERS

To induce nasturtiums to bloom in rich soil, strip off the most of the leaves and all seed pods and let the sun to the stalks. Nasturtiums bloom best in poor soil.

Bud roses now. Choose healthy, vigorous stock. A very pleasing effect is had by inserting buds of different varieties, (generally teas), on the same stock. This makes a fine showing.

Acacia lapantha should not be allowed to become root-bound; if the top or the long branches are not shortened to encourage bushing, the lower leaves turn yellow and fall off, leaving the plant unsightly.

If one has a pit ready, many plants with belated blossoms, which must otherwise die, can be taken care of and the bloom enjoyed until the holidays or after. A pit is easily made and not expensive.

Mound beds dry out rapidly in mid-summer, and plants growing in them need plenty of water and a good coat of mulch. Beds a little lower than the surface of the surrounding soil are best for all moisture-loving plants.

### SOME TIMELY HINTS

Take down the curtains and roll up the shades. Give the plants all the light possible and plenty of fresh air.

Ferns should have a soil of pure leaf-mold with a little sand added, abundance of light and air, but no sunshine. Keep moist in a cool room away from dust and furnace heat.

All roses that can be transplanted with safety in the fall should be attended to. A rose so planted gets all the good of the early spring weather and is better prepared to withstand the heat and dryness of summer.

Shelter the house plants on the veranda a week or so before bringing inside, to accustom them to the change by degrees, taking them in on cool nights, and setting them out during the day.

The potted bulb should be frequently turned, that all sides may be exposed to the sun. If this is not done, the spike may develop on one side only, the other side not opening its flowers.

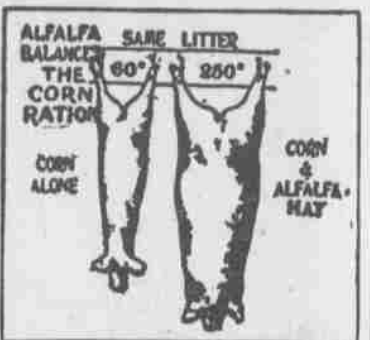
The soot recommended as a fertilizer for garden plants is that from wood ashes. Coal ashes have no value.

## FARM ANIMALS

### EXPERIMENT WITH HOG FEED

Illustration Shows Difference in Size of Animals Fed on Alfalfa and Corn, and Corn Alone.

The pigs shown in the illustration were litter mates fed at the Kansas experiment station. The big pig was fed on a ration of corn and alfalfa hay; the little pig on corn alone. The experiment was carried on for eight



Balanced Feed.

months. The alfalfa-corn pigs averaged 250 pounds dressed; the corn-alone pigs but 60 pounds each. Pigs must have protein. There is plenty of it in alfalfa. The balanced ration made the difference.

### PROTECT STOCK FROM FLIES

Department of Agriculture Recommends Mixture of Soap and Kerosene—Use Spray or Wash.

(By CHARLES L. BRAY, Colorado Experiment Station.)

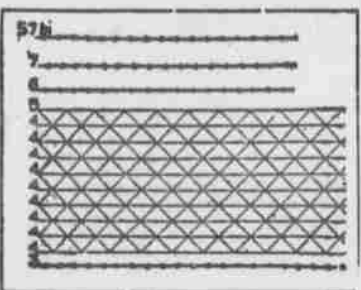
During the summer months, when cattle are most likely to be bothered with flies, there are many people who wish to know what can be done as a preventive. There are a number of methods sometimes recommended for this purpose, some of which are supposed to keep flies off the animal by virtue of their bad odor or greasy nature, and some which are supposed to be sprayed on to kill the flies. Considerable doubt exists as to the benefits to be obtained from using any of these treatments, or as to the relative value of the different ways of combating flies.

For spraying the backs of cattle at milking time, there is possibly nothing more reliable than kerosene emulsion. The following recipe given by the United States department of agriculture is one of the best ways of making this: Dissolve one-half pound of hard soap in one gallon of hot water, and while still at near boiling point add two gallons kerosene, and emulsify by use of a force pump or agitator of some kind. Dilute with water, one part emulsion to eight parts water, and use as a spray, dip or wash.

### SUITABLE DOGPROOF FENCE

Arrangement Tried by Government Rangers and Found Satisfactory—Height is 57 inches.

On one of the government's forest ranges this fence has been tried for three months and found to be dog and coyote-proof. Not a coyote made his way through it. Posts are set 16 feet apart. They are 7½ feet long and set



Dogproof Fence.

2½ feet in the ground. The lower wire lies flat on the ground. The numbers on the cut indicate the inches between wire strands. The total height of the fence is 57 inches. The woven-wire fencing is 36 inches high and has a four-inch mesh.

### SHEEP REQUIRE SOME SHADE

Best Place for Shed is on Open Ground Where There is No Grass—High Fence Will Do.

Do not allow the sheep to lie around in fence corners or buddle in underbrush. The best shade is a shed on open ground where there is no grass.

A little bit of shelter is fine for sheep. Even if it be nothing more than a high board fence on the side toward the sunshine it will help a lot. The sheep can snuggle up near to that and escape the direct rays of the sun.

Better than such a fence is a piece of woodland. We have a cluster of little hemlocks in our pasture, up on a side hill, says a writer in an exchange. The sheep run up into that and escape not only the heat, but also the miserable flies that hurt them so.

### Examine Ram for Ticks.

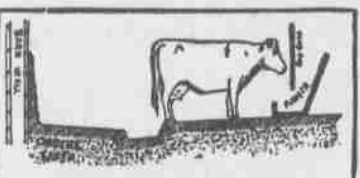
It is a good plan to examine the ram once in a while for ticks, and if any are found he should be thoroughly soaked with a few gallons of a dip preparation. This can easily be done with a hand-sprinkler while the ram is in a standing position.

## DAIRY

### GOOD COW STALL AND FLOOR

Dairy Building Should Be Constructed With Aim to Keep Cows Dry and Clean as Possible.

While it is more pleasant to work in fine barns, it is not necessary to have them in order to get good results, but items under this head are quite necessary for getting the best returns. With the comfort of the animal in view, our buildings should be constructed with the aim to keep the cows as dry and clean as possible. Cement floors built with about the same thickness as sidewalks and so constructed as to offer good drainage are the most serviceable, says a writer in Western Farmer. They should contain a gutter 18 to 20 inches wide and seven



Stall and Floor Plan.

to eight inches deep. The gutter should slope to one edge and also to one end, as in Fig. 1, which shows a cross-section.

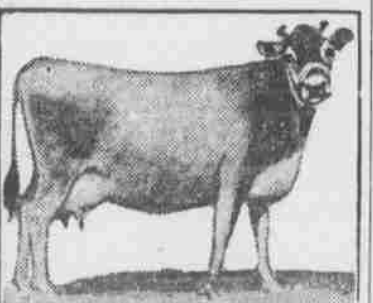
The front gate should be adjustable, so as to close to the rear edge of the platform. The manger may be made of wood or cement, but in all cases should be partitioned off so as to keep each cow's food separate. Some stockmen object to cement floors on the ground that they give the cows rheumatism and produce sore feet. If proper bedding is given, there should be no trouble. Many think such a floor construction extravagant and impractical for the average dairyman, but it is not. While the original cost may be a little more, it will be cheaper in the end and far more serviceable. Such a floor will outwear many made of wood and will be far more sanitary in every way. They are easier to clean and do not give off odors like a board floor, which soaks up filth and causes an ever-present odor in the stable.

The stalls should be separate so that each animal will be by herself, and she will soon learn to take her own place when entering the stable. This is not saying that good stables cannot be built of wood, but it is to remind the man who contemplates building or wishes to remodel his barn that it pays to build well.

### TO GET BETTER DAIRY COWS

Breeders' Association Keeps One in Touch With Best and Modern Ways of Managing Herd.

1. Treat cows gently and avoid excitement.
2. Be regular in time of milking.
3. Keep stables clean, well-lighted and ventilated.
4. Weigh the milk of each cow at milking time.
5. Get your neighbor to share with



Jersey Cow With a Fine Record.

you in owning a Babcock milk tester, and test the product of each cow.

6. Discard the animals which have failed at the end of the year to pay for their keep.

7. Breed your cows to a purebred, registered dairy bull from a family having large and profitable production of butter fat.

8. Raise well the heifer calves from cows, which for one or more generations have made large and profitable productions of milk and butter fat.

9. Breed heifers to drop their first calves at twenty-four to thirty months of age. Give cows six to eight weeks' rest between lactation periods.

10. Join a dairy cattle breeders' association. It will help you keep posted and in touch with the best and most modern ways of managing your dairy herd.

### For the Silo.

Short, immature corn should be allowed to stand until nearly dry before putting into the silo. That is, the leaves should be nearly dry; the stalk should be pretty well filled with sap. If this corn is put in while too green it may make sour silage.

### Ideal for Keeping Milk Cool.

A springhouse or a refrigerator is the ideal thing for keeping milk cool, but million of pounds of good butter are made every year with no better equipment than a tank for the cans filled with a pump from a well.

### Repair Leaking Tent.

If a cow has a little hole in the side of her tent, through which the milk squirts, wait till she is dry, then scrape the edges of the hole till it bleeds and sew together. Take out the stitches when it heals.

## SMILES

### WOULD HOLD OFF.



"Would you marry a man to reform him?"  
"Not before I was at least thirty-five years old."

**The Simple Life.**  
If you are drawing nine per week, it is up to you to scribble. But you can live the simple life. Because your pay is simple.

**Handing Down a Feud.**  
"Son," said the father of a husky sophomore,  
"Yes, dad."  
"Isn't old Dan Breshers' boy a freshman at Gaddins this year?"  
"Sure he is. I've walloped him dozens of times."

"Keep it up, son; old Dan Breshers made things pretty warm for me when I was a freshman at Gaddins."

**Extra Precautions.**  
The Debutante—A young man wants me to send him my picture. Would that be proper?  
The Older One—Why not?  
The Debutante—Perhaps, to be on the safe side, I'd better inclose one of my chaplains as well.—Puck.

**Their Way.**  
"In the West formerly they had quite a telephonic way of handling men who dealt in stolen horses."  
"How was it telephonic?"  
"They hung up the receiver."

**Not the Same.**  
"Are you going to have any osculatory entertainment at the party?"  
"Oh, nothin' so grand as all that. Just a few old-fashioned kissing games."

**Sure Thing.**  
"I am going to name my yacht Rumor."  
"Why?"  
"Because if there's anything in a name she's sure to keep afloat."

**Love's Progress.**  
Knicker—How can you tell how long they have been married?  
Bocker—By whether she wants him to stop smoking to save his health, his money or the curtains.

**A Living.**  
Smythe—He made a living by going from bad to worse.  
Smith—How could he do that?  
Smythe—He was a doctor.—Garboyle.

**His Reprisal.**  
Doctor—Why have you deducted a quarter from my bill?  
Patient—That is for the six cigars you broke when you thumped my chest.

**OVERLOOKED.**  
"Do I understand you to say," asked the judge, "that his remarks were arrimonious?"  
"No, judge, your honor, I didn't say that. I said he just swore at me. I ain't agoin' to claim that he done what he didn't do."

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**Of Course Paw Knew.**  
Little Lemuel—Say, paw, why does the camel have a hump?  
Paw—The camel has a hump, son, so he—er—won't be mistaken for a mule.

**In the Hospital.**  
That policeman who has just come in has a professional affliction.  
"What might it be?"  
"He has a couple of felons on his hands."

**In the Early Morn.**  
Singleton—That baby of yours is getting to be quite a big chap.  
Wederly—Well, I guess yes. When I have to walk the floor with him nights he gains about two pounds a minute.

**The Ninety and Nine Per Cent.**  
"You used to refer to your wife as your better half."  
"I have revised my fractions," replied Mr. Meekton. "I don't feel as if I represented more than one per cent of the combination."

**Spoke Too Plainly.**  
Ned—Do you believe in the language of flowers?  
Ted—To be sure. The last ones I sent Miss Charming tell me I'll have to do without smoking for a month.—Town Topics.

**He Had No More to Say.**  
Griggs—That new neighbor of ours must be a very happy woman. She goes about the house singing all day long.  
Mrs. Griggs—Well, why shouldn't she be happy? She's a widow.

**Wot you readin', Willy?**  
"The sassiest news; an' dere ain't a word about my engagement yet!"

**Yes, Verily!**  
"Men and measures," is a term that drops from many a lip; But the wily water measures A man from tip to tip.

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